

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: KRAKOW CONSULATE STAFFING

REF: WARSAW 4833, AUG 16, 1974; STATE 190278

1. WITH FINAL FIGURES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1974 NOW IN HAND THE CASE FOR A THIRD AMERICAN POSITION IN KRAKOW BECOMES IRON-CLAD. THE NON-IMMIGRANT-VISA AND WELFARE-AND-PROTECTION WORKLOAD IS RISING COUNTRY-WIDE. THE SITUATION CANNOT BE MET ADEQUATELY BY REPROGRAMMING. THE FOLLOWING CHART SHOWS THE TOTAL NIV WORKLOAD (COMBINED ISSUANCES AND REFUSALS) IN POLAND FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS. (NOTE THAT KRAKOW WAS OPEN FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS IN 1974.)

	1972	1973	1974
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WARSAW	14,956	17,546	18,131
POZNAN	3,149	3,519	3,470
KRAKOW	-----	-----	5,135
TOTAL POLAND	18,105	21,065	26,736

AS COMPARED WITH 1972, THE TOTAL NIV WORKLOAD INCREASED 16 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 47 PERCENT IN 1974.

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2. KRAKOW'S CONSULAR OPERATION WAS ORIGINALLY STAFFED BY TRANSFERRING ONE AMERICAN AND TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES FROM EMBASSY WARSAW'S CONSULAR SECTION. IN VIEW OF THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN ITS BUSINESS, THE WARSAW CONSULAR SECTION CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE ANOTHER OFFICER. NOR DO WE WISH TO DENUDE POZNAN OF THE ONLY CONSULAR OFFICER ASSIGNED THERE. IN OUR "CONSULAR PACKAGE" REPORTS PREPARED AT THE END OF FY 73 AND FY 74, WE POINTED OUT THAT KRAKOW WOULD REQUIRE AT LEAST 1-1/2 AMERICANS FOR ITS CONSULAR OPERATIONS. WE HAVE URGED THE NEED FOR THIS ADDITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION IN CORRESPONDENCE, IN CONVERSATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT, AND BY CABLE. NOW THE NEED IS PRESSING. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY QUESTION OF TEETHING PROBLEMS AT A NEW POST OR AN OPENING SURGE OF VISA APPLICANTS DRAWN BY SOME CURIOSITY FACTOR. ALTHOUGH IT IS THE MIDDLE OF WINTER AND THE TOURIST SEASON IS STILL SEVERAL MONTHS OFF, THE FLOW CONTINUES UNABATED. THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT EVEN THE MOST DEDICATED AND SKILLED CONSULAR OFFICER COULD HANDLE THE KRAKOW WORKLOAD THIS SUMMER SINGLE-HANDED. KRAKOW HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAGNET FOR EVERY AMERICAN TOURIST IN POLAND AND THE NUMBER OF U.S. CITIZEN RESIDENTS IS GROWING. WELFARE-AND-CITIZENSHIP WORK MAY PROVE TO BE NEARLY A FULL-TIME JOB IN ITSELF.

3. WHEN LAB LEAVES THE POST TO RESIGN ON JANUARY 25, KRAKOW WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT A CONSULAR OFFICER UNTIL NICHOLS ARRIVES IN LATE FEBRUARY. (WE ARE AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF HIS EXACT ETA.) POZNAN IS IN NO POSITION TO HELP OUT; ITS CONSULAR OFFICER RETIRED IN JANUARY AND HAS NOT YET BEEN REPLACED. WARSAW'S CONSULAR SECTION WILL COVER THE GAP BY SENDING SOMEONE DOWN FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL NICHOLS' ARRIVAL ALTHOUGH THIS LEAVES US SHORT-HANDED ALL AROUND DURING THE FEBRUARY INSPECTION.

4. QUITE APART FROM THESE SHORT-TERM DIFFICULTIES, I WISH TO REITERATE MY CONVICTION THAT KRAKOW MUST HAVE A THIRD FULL-TIME AMERICAN POSITION. THE USIA PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND ONCE CONSULAR OFFICER CANNOT OPERATE THE POST PROPERLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VERY GREAT OPPORTUNITIES WHICH EXIST FOR EXPANDING AMERICAN INFLUENCE AND CONTACTS IN SOUTHERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLAND. OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOW GOING BEGGING AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT GETTING THE RETURN ON THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT WHICH IT MADE IN OPENING THIS POST. NICHOLS HAS FIRST-CLASS ECONOMIC CREDENTIALS AND SEEMS CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING VALUABLE ECONOMIC REPORTING FROM THE IMPORTANT INDUSTRIAL AREA OF SILESIA. UNLESS THERE IS A THIRD AMERICAN PRESENT TO SHARE THE CONSULAR AND ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD, NICHOLS WILL BE COMPLETELY TIED TO

HIS DESK AND UNABLE TO MAKE THE CONTRIBUTION OF WHICH
WE BELIEVE HIM CAPABLE.

5. I AM AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING ADDITIONAL
POSITIONS, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THIS DIFFICULTY RELIEVES
US OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE STAFFING
FOR THIS IMPORTANT NEW CENTER OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN
EASTERN EUROPE. I MOST STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT AN
ADDITIONAL POSITION FOR KRAKOW BE AUTHORIZED AND STAFFED
DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR.
DAVIES

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